

his undergraduate education in premedical studies. This education, however, was interrupted by his military service in the Army which lasted from 1953–1955. During this time period, he served as an operations sergeant in the U.S. Army, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Upon the completion of this service, Mr. Coronado finished his undergraduate education and became an assistant principal and science teacher at Hebbbronville High School.

In 1962, Mr. Coronado began his illustrious career with the Veterans Administration as an administrative officer with the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Houston, TX. He worked his way up the ranks as a devoted civil servant until 1975, when he became the director of the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital in San Antonio. He served in that capacity for 20 years, until he was named director of the STVHCS in 1995.

Mr. Coronado's unyielding devotion to his career can only be matched by his commitment to the community. Throughout the span of his career, he has participated in a number of organizations in a wide range of capacities. Currently, he is a member of the Medical Research Public Awareness Committee, he is chair of the Graduate Healthcare Administration Training Program, GHATP, Board, he is on the Board of Contributors for the San Antonio United Way, and he is a fellow with the American College of Healthcare Executives, ACHE. Furthermore, he is an adjunct professor at both the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and the University of Houston, Clear Lake. He is also affiliate faculty within Trinity University's Department of Health Care Administration.

Mr. Coronado's efforts have made a positive impact on the organizations he serves as well as the individual lives that he has touched. This impact has been recognized by awards presented to him by three separate Presidents. Most recently, Mr. Coronado was bestowed Modern Healthcare Magazine "Top 25 Minority Health Care Executive" award and the Under Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs "Exemplary Service Award."

I believe that Mr. Coronado has consistently demonstrated incomparable leadership abilities and a selflessness reserved for the truly great public servants. He has given so much in service to our military and to the countless veterans who have benefited from his direction. In fact, generations of military personnel have been positively impacted by the efforts he has made throughout his career.

On behalf of the brave men and women of the military, the staff of the facilities over which Mr. Coronado led, and the citizens of South Texas, I want to say thank you. Thank you Mr. Coronado for the sacrifices you have made to better the lives of others. Thank you for your commitment in service to this great Nation. And thank you for showing us what can be achieved through hard work, vision, and a strong sense of purpose. While Mr. Coronado's retirement is certainly well-deserved, his presence will no doubt be missed in our community.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OMNIBUS AUTHORIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 25, 2006*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the District of Columbia Omnibus Authorization Act, a major bill to assist the District of Columbia in carrying out timely and critical operational responsibilities, received final approval as a result of House passage this evening and is on its way to the President for his signature. The DC Omnibus Authorization Act, sponsored by Government Reform Committee Chairman TOM DAVIS and me, includes permanent mid-year budget autonomy in a collection of crucial provisions that have been approved or passed by the District, but must come to Congress before becoming law. The most important omnibus authorization provision, long sought by the District since home rule was granted, allows the city to spend local funds without coming back to Congress for approval through the congressional mid-year supplemental appropriations process. We worked hard to convince appropriators to implement this critical change for the first time beginning this year, but the provision in today's bill is needed to authorize mid-year budget autonomy permanently. This is the first structural change in the original Home Rule Act since it was enacted over 30 years ago and brings the city close to obtaining full budget autonomy. It is impossible to overestimate the hardship to this or any city of being unable to carry on normal business and engage in fiscal transactions—from spending local revenue already in the bank for vital city needs to floating baseball stadium bonds—without coming to Congress. Budget autonomy from the congressional supplemental process essentially enacts part of the DC Budget Autonomy Act that Chairman DAVIS and I have introduced to give the District greater freedom from the annual congressional appropriations process that redundantly requires the District's balanced budget to come to the Congress before it becomes effective.

The Omnibus Authorization Act includes many other vital provisions, including one that gives greater city control and use of reserve funds—up to 50 percent—with specific procedures for reimbursement. The District's sound fiscal practices, along with limitations required by Congress, have led to an impressive reserve fund. However, residents watched the neglect of basic services and continued to send their children to dilapidated public school buildings while the District grew an ever larger reserve fund that could not be tapped. As a result of work with appropriators last year, DC already is spending part of its reserves that had been piling up.

Both the House and the Senate approved an omnibus authorization bill earlier this session. However, the House needs to approve the Senate version that added provisions not in the House bill. The new provisions include: a change in the fiscal year that the District of Columbia Public Schools requested; permission for the DC libraries to accept gifts—currently only the Mayor's office can receive them; enhanced dental and vision benefits for court employees; and a requirement that with-

in 1 year of congressional passage, the District must start using a metered system for taxicabs, unless the Mayor signs an executive order opting out. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

## IN RECOGNITION OF CLINTON KIRK

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2006*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay tribute to Mr. Clinton Kirk, a constituent of mine who has dedicated the past 20 years of his life to staying healthy and fit.

Mr. Kirk resides in Valley, Alabama, and is in his eighth decade of life. He is known around the area as the Walking Man. Kirk says when he began his walking in 1986, he would walk around 5 to 6 miles a day in the early morning. Twenty years later, he says he now walks about a mile a day and says he attributes his good health to his walking habit. Amazingly, Mr. Kirk has walked over 50,000 miles since 1986, the year he began keeping a daily log of the distance he covers.

I salute Mr. Kirk for his continued efforts to exercise and stay healthy, and commend him at this milestone for serving as an example for us all to take care of ourselves and stay fit.

## PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4844, FEDERAL ELECTION INTEGRITY ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2006*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly oppose H.R. 4844, Republican legislation that would suppress voter participation by mandating burdensome new voter identification requirements. This bill is similar to State laws that have recently been struck down as unconstitutional conditions to voting.

H.R. 4844 is a discriminatory political ploy. No empirical data of voter fraud exists that justifies such onerous new mandates. The bill requires individuals to have a State or Federally approved photo identification in order to vote in federal elections in 2008 and to provide documented proof of citizenship by 2010. For those voting by mail, H.R. 4844 requires a photocopy of identification to be sent with the absentee ballot. In reality, the legislation would disenfranchise millions of American citizens who do not possess the required identification.

Not surprisingly, those who will struggle most to comply with this bill are the same citizens the Voting Rights Act is designed to protect: racial and ethnic minorities, students, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, Americans living in rural areas, the homeless and low-income citizens. This burden will be overwhelming for many Native Americans, particularly elders and those living in remote areas, or those that use primarily tribal identification.

In addition, a study conducted at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee found that only 50 percent of African American and Latino men in Milwaukee had government issued photo identification that would allow them to vote in 2008. To obtain a drivers' license, birth certificate, passport or naturalization papers to meet the bill's requirements low-income citizens will face financial burdens and lost time from work while the elderly may struggle to make a trip to the local DMV. And citizens who lost their vital documents in the aftermath of Hurricane's Katrina and Rita should expect to face one final insult from Washington when they lose their right to vote.

In addition, H.R. 4844 fails to specify how disputes over identification would be handled by poll workers. Consequently, the bill places an undue and irresponsible amount of discretion in the hands of overworked poll workers, which opens the door to widespread racial and ethnic discrimination at polling places. Imposing new barriers to the right of Americans to vote is simply unnecessary. Existing federal laws impose strict penalties on non-citizens who attempt to vote illegally. The success of existing federal laws is underscored by the fact that supporters of H.R. 4844 were unable to offer data to establish a need for this bill.

The Help America Vote Act, HAVA, that Congress passed with bipartisan support in 2002 proved that securing the integrity of our elections process need not come at the cost of voter access. Congress should reject H.R. 4844 and instead, fulfill promises made in HAVA by providing States with the \$800 million they need to expand access and prevent voter fraud. The Republican Majority should be held accountable for championing H.R. 4844, a bill that casually and callously undermines the constitutionally guaranteed right of all Americans to vote.

#### TRIBUTE TO LUAN RIVERA

### HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2006*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I raise today to recognize Luan Rivera, a devoted and inspirational leader who has dedicated her life to the education and development of America's youth. As the 2005–2006 President of the California School Boards Association, CSBA, Luan has worked tirelessly to promote and strengthen educational opportunities in California's public schools and I would like to commend her for her efforts.

Luan was elected to the Ramona Unified School District Board of Education in 1994 and served seven years on CSBA's Delegate Assembly. Her impressive credentials include a master's degree from Roosevelt University in Chicago, completion of CSBA's Master in Governance Program, a multiple-subject teaching credential and an English as a Second Language certificate. She is also the former youth coordinator of the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program and has participated in numerous activities designed to en-

hance tolerance amongst California's culturally diverse youth population.

Adding to this long list of achievements, Luan has also been active in the San Diego County Inter-Agency Coalition for Human and Civil Rights and, in 2001, she attended the United Nations World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa. These experiences and qualifications enabled Luan to serve as CSBA President with a high level of insight and an acute understanding of California's educational challenges.

Luan recognizes that stimulating and encouraging our children to learn is an investment in America's future. Her incredible devotion to improving California's education system has set a new precedent for CSBA's top leadership position and it is my hope that leaders like Luan will continue to step forward in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Luan Rivera for her service as a member of the Ramona Unified School District Board of Education and CSBA President. Thanks to Luan, California's public schools are a better place and she can take special pride in knowing that her contributions are improving the lives of children and families throughout the State.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF FORT LAUDERDALE'S LONE SAILOR MEMORIAL

### HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2006*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fort Lauderdale Council of the Navy League of the United States for their successful campaign to locate a Lone Sailor Statue on Fort Lauderdale's Riverwalk.

The Fort Lauderdale Council has been greeting military ships of all Navies arriving in Port Everglades for over 50 years, earning a reputation for Fort Lauderdale as the 'best liberty Port in the world'. Although Fort Lauderdale is not home to a major Navy facility, it is rich in naval history. During World War II, pilots including former President George Bush, trained at the old Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station. During my tenure in Congress, I have had the privilege of participating in two ship commissioning ceremonies at Port Everglades. It is a fact: the Navy loves Fort Lauderdale and Fort Lauderdale loves the Navy.

With this strong relationship with the Navy, members of the Council, including former Congressman George Wortley, felt it was time to join eight other communities around the country and bring a Lone Sailor statue to South Florida. They committed to raising \$250,000 to obtain the statue, prepare the site and cover other related expenses. They successfully petitioned the City of Fort Lauderdale to approve a permanent home for the 'sailor' on Fort Lauderdale's Riverwalk.

On Saturday, October 14th, 2006, I look forward to joining members of the Fort Lauderdale Council and our South Florida community

to dedicate the Lone Sailor statue. Cast in bronze, the statue is composed of 2 pieces: the sailor who stands 7 feet tall and weighs approximately 1,000 lbs. and his sea bag and cleat weighing 700 lbs. During the casting process, the bronze is mixed with artifacts from eight U.S. Navy ships which span the Navy's history. It is a fitting tribute to the men and women of the sea service.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the members of the Fort Lauderdale Council of the Navy League of the United States for their commitment to this wonderful project. The Lone Sailor Statue will stand as a symbol of the esteem in which this community holds the members of the sea services: Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, U.S.-Flag Merchant Marine.

#### IN MEMORY OF LOBIS ADAMS

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Lobis Adams, the 99-year-old retired pastor of the Corinth Missionary Baptist Church.

Reverend Adams pastored the Corinth Missionary Baptist church for 33 years before retiring in 2003. As a faithful servant to the Lord, Reverend Adams spent his life in the service of others by volunteering in countless Baptist organizations.

His commitment to the church and the community are still visible today through the many organizations that he helped establish and lead. His dedication to education in the Baptist community is shown through his tenure as Director of Christian Education at the Texas State Missionary Baptist Convention. He also served as a board member to the Texas Baptist Foreign Mission board.

It was my honor to represent Reverend Adams. I extend my sympathies to his family and friends. May the example of this man, whose contributions made richer the fabric of our faith, be inspiration to all.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2006*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed three votes on September 25, 2006. Had I been present I would have voted no on H.R. 5059, to designate the Wild River Wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest in the State of New Hampshire, no on H.R. 5062, to designate as wilderness certain National Forest System land in the State of New Hampshire, and yes on H.R. 6102, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Lawyers Road, NW in Vienna, Virginia, as the "Captain Christopher Petty Post Office Building".